



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

370 L'Enfant Promenade, S.W.

Washington, D.C. 20447

Dear Colleague:

In an effort to help States share payment management practices, I am writing to advise you of an important national initiative that the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) will be facilitating. With your help, HHS will be developing a compilation of States' practices for identifying and reducing improper payments under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. We invite your agency to participate in this effort. This initiative is part of the President's Management Agenda (PMA), which has as a major component the identification and reduction of improper payments in Federal programs as specified under the Improper Payments Information Act of 2002.

There is no national system for managing improper payments in the TANF program as there was under the predecessor Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) program; nor is there is any statutory authority for establishing such a national system. However, to monitor payment accuracy, many States establish their own systems and other States have expressed an interest in developing systems. We think that States learn best from one another and believe that it would be very beneficial to compile information on the design and scope of State systems in order to develop a repository of such information for use by all States in effectively managing improper payments.

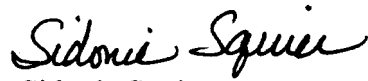
Please submit any information that you think might be useful to other States including, but not limited to, the information on the attached questionnaire. Completion of the questionnaire and submission of any other information are voluntary, and partial responses are acceptable. We request that all of the information be submitted electronically, if possible, to dspeoe@acf.hhs.gov. If you submit hard copies, they should be directed to:

Administration for Children and Families
Office of Family Assistance
Division of Data Collection and Analysis
Improper Payments Project
Aerospace Center
Fifth Floor, East
Washington, DC 20447

This survey is being conducted in conjunction with a similar survey of the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program in order to maintain consistency of data, to the extent possible, in these interrelated programs.

We thank you in advance for your help with this important project. If you have any questions, you may contact Sean Hurley at 202-401-9297, or at shurley@acf.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sidonie Squier". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sidonie" and last name "Squier" clearly distinguishable.

Sidonie Squier
Director
Office of Family Assistance

Enclosure